Subject: Russian plate piece

Pruger, Harry L.

[Pittsburgh Coin Club
Pittsburg, PA]

1932

7938 Jacoma St.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
March 12, 1932

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
Amer. Numismatic Society,
156th and Broadway, N.Y.C.

Dear Sir:

At the last meeting of the Pittsburgh Coin Club, an interesting discussion arose as to whether or not the Russian Plate which I am enclosing, is really genuine or a restrike of a latter date.

Mr. Howard D. Gibbs, a member of the A.N.A., suggested

that I send the plate to you for your expert opinion regarding its authenticity. We shall be governed by your reply.

Any information you may send will be greatly appreciated.

Enclosed is a Money Order for postage and insurance for return of the Plate, and the writer will gladly pay a fee for the appraisal.

Trusting that this matter may receive your kind attention, and awaiting an early reply, I am

Yours very truly

Harry L. Truger

7938 Tacoma St.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
March 12, 1932

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator
% Amer. Numismatic Society.
156th St. and Broadway
New York City.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed ~~Money~~ (STAMPS)
~~Order~~ is to cover postage and
insurance for return of the
Russian Plate which I am
sending by separate mail.

Yours very truly,
Harry L. Pruger

Sent
3/16/32 R.
Registered 53¢

(over)

P. S. - Letter requesting information, is within the package containing the Plate.

March 16, 1932.

Mr. Harry L. Pruger
7938 Tacoma St.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your letter with the Russian Plate piece at hand. Two of us have carefully examined it and have compared it with photographs of those in the Hermitage Museum. I am very sorry to have to tell you that your piece is an absolute fabrication. To begin with the plate itself should look about the same as the Swedish plate pieces and the stamps should be punched in from dies. Your whole piece is a cast, not from a genuine piece but from a crudely made-up model. The stamps are not correct. The insignia on the breasts of the eagle are wrong and the lettering on the central stamp is very poorly done compared with the genuine pieces. The raised parts of your piece both front and back show that they have been ground down to make the two surfaces smooth and to obliterate the effects of the casting.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator